

# The West Virginian

"THE PAPER THAT GOES HOME"

Established 1880.

Published daily except Sunday by the  
Fairmont Printing and Publishing  
Company.

Member Associated Press.

PUBLICATION OFFICE  
Monroe Street.

TELEPHONES  
Bell 88-F Consolidated 97.

Entered at the Postoffice at Fairmont,  
West Virginia, as second-class mat-  
ter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
Delivered by Carrier  
Daily, one month, payable month-  
ly ..... \$4.50  
By Mail  
Daily, one month ..... 40  
Daily, four months ..... 1.00  
Daily, six months ..... 1.50  
Daily, one year ..... 3.00  
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## FREE SCHOOL BOOKS.

The question of providing free text books is now being very widely discussed all over the state, and the editor of the West Virginian can very well lay some modest claim to the advancement of the discussion throughout this section of the state, since he has given very wide publicity to the matter, making it a live campaign issue during the last campaign.

We do not believe the coming legislature will adopt free school books, since there was not enough representatives elected with that promise made to the people, but the start has been made and the free school book question will become the issue in many other counties, and wherever it is understood it will be approved.

West Virginia needs to take this progressive step. This state needs the moral stamina to throw off forever the shackles of the School Book Trust by printing her own school books, eliminating the graft and bringing the cost down to fair figures. All of this will help the cause of education and start an industry within our own borders that will give employment to a small army of employees.

The Huntington Herald-Dispatch, always awake to watch for the advance progressive measures and always alert enough to help push them along, adds the weight of its endorsement to the god cause after the following manner:

"The Wheeling-Intelligencer, in discussing the proposal for free text books, endorses the proposition, but makes the point that, for reasons of delicacy, text books should be free to all. There can be no objection to this plan. The expense of paying for text books would come from the tax payers of the state according to their property assessments. If the weather people of the state want to include themselves in the general gratuity, rather than draw the line with families who are unable to provide, there can be no objection, since the adoption of this plan would merely mean in an approximate sense that these tax payers be taxed for their own text books rather than pay for them directly out of their own pockets. There can be no nicety of equalization in any event. So the main thing to be sought is the enactment of a law which will guarantee for every child of school age in West Virginia the same text books and the same opportunities that every other child will possess. The State owes it to every man that his children shall not be permitted to grow up in illiteracy, and it owes to the children, as its wards, that they shall be permitted, if ambitious, to secure an education and rise from poverty and obscurity."

"The State of West Virginia ought to make it physically possible for every child to secure at least the rudiments of learning. With this possibility established, an adequate compulsory attendance law should be rigidly enforced."

## "BLUEBEARD."

The original "Bluebeard," who suggested to Perrault the idea for the story which shocked children for many generations, was Marshal Gilles de Laval, Seigneur de Retz, who was executed for his crimes on this date, Dec. 23, in 1440. Owing to the color of his facial adornment, which was black of a bluish shade, the murderer of children became known as "Barbe bleue," or "Bluebeard." In his young manhood he was a gallant soldier in the service of the French monarch. He inherited immense estates, and for a

## IF HE SMOKES

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If smoking is his pleasure, you will please him greatly when you present him a box of our choice Cigars. You couldn't give him a better present, or one that will show your thoughtfulness or esteem in a better way, for our cigars are of fine aroma, most delicate bouquet and come mild, medium or strong, just as he may prefer them. \$1.00 per box up, according to size.

## CRANE'S Drug Store

time was known as the richest man in France, but he dissipated his wealth in debauchery and profligacy. Reduced to poverty, he is said to have sold his soul to the devil, and with an Englishman and an Italian as his associates in iniquity, performed bloody rites in which blood and hearts of children were used. Obscene ceremonies of an indescribable character were imputed to de Retz, and before he was finally apprehended and strangled he is said to have slain hundreds of children, mostly girls, of from eight to eighteen years of age. The court records declare that he had eighty victims in one community and forty-six in another.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE WAR. DE WET.

Gen. Christian Rudolf de Wet, who was recently captured by Gen. Botha's forces after leading a short-lived and futile rebellion, is sixty years old. During the South African war Gen. De Wet was the hero of many dashing and brilliant exploits, and to the end of the war he evaded all British plans to effect his capture. This time he lacked popular support, however, and, with all his former friends refusing assistance or a place of refuge, he was speedily hunted down by the forces of his former comrade-in-arms, Gen. Botha. At the outbreak of the present war nobody doubted De Wet's loyalty to the South African Union, and it was even stated that he had offered to lead a South African force to Europe. Gen. De Wet's rebellion, whatever its motive, was based on tragically false premises. Not many years ago he was the idol of all the Boers, and the object of a nation's hero worship. Doubtless he believed that he had but to say the word, and all his countrymen would rise in revolt. He spoke the word, but the hearers remained apathetic and unmoved. Under the Union government they had known greater liberty and prosperity than ever before, and the revolt fell flat, and left its leader a fugitive. As one of the signers of the treaty of Vereeniging, Gen. De Wet pledged his loyalty to the British flag, and since then he has been a member of the Orange Colony legislature and has held office under the British Crown as minister for agriculture. During the Boer war De Wet was hailed as the ablest guerilla chieftain in history. The raids of his flying columns were the despair of the foe, and on one occasion Gen. De Wet almost succeeded in a scheme to take Gen. Kitchener a prisoner.

After you have his description of it, the most difficult thing is to understand why the owner of the house wishes to sell it.

A desire to avoid work is often manifested in a determined search for a government job.

Buck Kilby and Jasper Ellington are not friendly. "Give Jasper a cow and Lake Michigan," said Buck yesterday, "and he could supply the world with milk."

As we understand the President's message, business may rest easy for a time. Until it recovers from the injuries already inflicted, no further assaults on it are planned.

## State Editors

Thank God for the intrinsic nobleness of the human heart! Battered and blown by the winds of doubt, disease and pestilence, the heart of man struggles to attain perfection of love and expression through the very obstacles that beat it back.—Charleston Gazette.

## TRY THE FARMER.

Hardly a week passes but that one reads of a state law being declared unconstitutional. If these little single barreled lawyers can't make laws that will stand the test why not give the farmer or editor a chance?—Preston News.

A city ordinance to stop petty gambling in the billiard halls indulged by the growing boys would not be amiss.—Parkersburg Dispatch-News.

THE MOUNTAINS, THE SKIES AND THE PRICES. Stealing softly in the Independent editorial rooms like the friendship of a Southern zephyr, Editor Calvin Price, of the Times of this city, paid his respects to the new editor of this paper Saturday evening.

It is pleasant to come from the gory political fields of the state and to return from the cotton panic "way down South," and cast one's lot in these highlands of West Virginia, where the mountains drink the emerald and the azure from the skies, and the skies kiss the mountains and paint the blues for the lassies and provoke the laughter of the lads, and where the honored price family are the salt of the earth.—William Price, retired veteran of the pulp and historian of the county; Andrew Price, poet of the highlands and sometimes humorist, as well as temporarily on Uncle Sam's payroll; Calvin Price, barn with the ink in his hair, elect journalist and de luxe printer; Dr. Norman Price, president of the county court and a fine fellow, but stumbling around in Democratic darkness, doom, despair, delirious doubt; his brother, Dr. Jim, flower of the flock, saved by grace, hallelujahing around in the Republican amen corner and singing stars for his crown—and all the rest of the family—from the old house to the kitchen.—Pocahontas Independent.

## Luke McLuke

(From Cincinnati Enquirer.)

Many a kalamoner and painter takes a look at Fried Wife's face and

discovers that he is wedded to his art. A young man doesn't know it, but he will be a whole lot better off if he marries a healthy girl who has her own shape and her own complexion and who can keep house and cook and who will be if he marries a girl who has nothing but her Pawpaw's bank account to recommend her.

## Best Stories.

### SUCH A HAT!

As usual, the road was "up," and so was part of the street, for that matter. But it takes more than this to keep Mrs. Bargain-hunter at home. Her two children comfortably ensconced in the perambulator, she sailed down the yawning street.

"Oh, what a darling of a luck of a sweet hat!" she murmured. And, leaving the perambulator, she walked to the shop window for a closer look. Absorbed in that darling of a hat, she gazed at it all unconscious of the fact that the perambulator had rolled away into a trench, until at last she was awakened from her blissful dream by the gruff voice of a workman.

"Say, missus," he said, "d'yer want these kiddies any more? 'Cos we're just going to fill the hole up!"

### HIS COUNTERPART.

Another poet has been getting into difficulties, and so, of course, everybody who is anybody is laughing at him. That's the great thing about being a poet—you're always amusing people.

He has recently been blessed with a son, and, in a moment of parental pride and poetic fervor, dashed off a poem singing the praises of the little stranger. It was accepted and published in a magazine with a huge circulation.

His bosom pal, Hopkins, was profuse in his congratulations. Judge his horror when, half an hour later, the poet dashed into his room again, pale, faint and sick.

"What on earth's the matter, my dear fellow?"

"Look—look for yourself!" gasped the unhappy bard. "The first line should read: 'My son! My pygmy counterpart!'"

Hopkins took the magazine and read:

"My son! My pig, my counterpart!"—Exchange.

## Just Smiles

### AH! THE BRIDEGROOM.

Mr. McVerne, an attractive and handsome man, belongs to one of the oldest families in the city, being the second son of Mr. and Mrs. Bartman McVerne, of Millville Place. He is a graduate of Mt. Pleasant academy, a member of the leading clubs and a general favorite. As a groom Mr. McVerne never looked better than in his wedding garb, which consisted of a black suit, beautifully cut in the latest style, with tie and shoes to match. On his bosom glistened his only ornament, an exquisite heart-shaped pin set with diamonds and opals, a gift of the bride. The ceremony took place in the living room under a rose bower, to which place the groom proceeded, supporting his mother, and followed by the ushers. There he was met by the bride and her attendants. The ushers in their attractive attire gave an added charm to the scene. Mr. Wm. Stalman, a brother of the bride, wore a brown suit with accessories to match. Mr. Luther Starr wore gray with a ciel blue tie. Mr. Cecil Wenling wore dark blue with cream hose and tie and Mr. Holland Grosner wore light tan with green accessories.—New Castle (Pa.) News.

### SPEAKING OF LONG SERMONS.

Rev. Bill Yokum will preach at this place from Friday until Sunday and perhaps longer.—Hazel Green (Ky.) Herald.

### CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION.

Q.—Where did the prodigal son live riotously?  
A.—Probably in Mexico City.

Q.—What two magazines have the most extensive field?  
A.—"Outdoors" and "The Wide World."

Q.—What is the wickedest town in the United States?  
A.—Solom, Ohio.

Q.—What is meant by "throwing money to the birds?"  
A.—An amateur trying to raise poultry for profit.

Q.—Name two prominent capitals in this country.  
A.—T. R.

Q.—What is the favorite game now being played by the crowned heads of Europe?  
A.—Passing the buck.

—Connellsville News.

### THE RUBAIYAT OF THE LOAFER.

My gal, my ease, my booze—  
Ketch on?  
A Jug, a loaf, and youse.

### JOHN GETS THE START OF LAFE.

Jeweller Lafe Major went to Chicago Thursday morning to purchase a supply of holiday goods.

Jeweller John F. Winger went to Chicago Wednesday morning to purchase a supply of holiday goods.—Volmut (Ill.) Leader.

## Current Comment

### SIGNIFICANTLY SILENT.

The Interstate Commerce Commission in its annual report discusses about everything except its own inability constructively to handle its new

### rate-making powers.

These powers were given to the commission by Congress in 1910. They were first used at that time in vetoing new tariffs proposed by the railroads of official classification territory. It was then asked to reopen the case and refused.

When after three years the 5 per cent. advance in tariffs came up it was suspended, and in November of last year hearings were begun. They lasted all through the winter. They were followed by a week of argument early last May. This was followed by 80 days of deliberation, after which, on or July 29, an uncertain decision was handed down which left the carriers just about where they were before. Next day war broke out in Europe, and on Sept. 15 the carriers asked for a rehearing because of conditions made worse by the war, and this is still undecided.

This rate case in general has been before the commission over three years, without result. It has been in particular before the commission over one year, without definite result. With all the facts in hand and with railroad earnings seriously affected by the war, the commission after three months is still deliberating.

Was it the purpose of Congress in the act of 1910 to make railroad rates unchangeable except downward? This is not the understanding or the interest of the country. Railroad conditions change and rates should be elastic enough to change with them. If the commission cannot exercise its new powers accordingly, it is not a fit body to have them.—New York World.

### JEALOUS ARIZONA.

Apparently envious of the notoriety which California recently acquired, Arizona has finally managed to pass an employment law which may be found to conflict with our treaty with Italy.—Chicago Herald.

### TEACHES TO MUCH.

The German Governor of Antwerp has put a ban on the circulation of Belgian ruins. That impressive object lesson appears to be teaching too much.—Springfield Republican.

### NOT UNLIKELY.

"Perhaps the censor has made it necessary for King George to go to France in order to get a little news of the war."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

### A GOOD START.

"He offers me aplostatic affection." "Well, take it. A platonic affection often leads to the real thing."—Pittsburgh Post.

## Vera Cruz Cost U.S. \$500,000

### ITEM CONTAINED IN URGENT DEFICIENCY BILL EVOKES CAUSTIC CRITICISM.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—An urgent deficiency bill was passed by the House carrying \$4,730,905, including \$554,371 to cover unexpected expenses incurred by the army as a result of the occupation of Vera Cruz. During the debate Republican Leader Mann attacked the administration's Mexican policy.

"This bill," he said carries a half million dollars to pay the expenses of our troops at Vera Cruz, sent there to obtain a salute of 21 guns which has not yet been given."

## Fight on Literacy Test Will Succeed

### WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—After conferring with President Wilson, Senator Lewis went to the Senate and announced that he would offer an amendment to strike the literacy test section from the Immigration bill.

Senator Lodge, who favors the literacy test, moved at once to postpone consideration of the measure.

Senator Lewis said at the White House that he would consult with Senator O'Gorman, of New York, and other opponents of the literacy test and attempt to determine how the Senate stands on the question.

He said the bill contains nothing of importance except the literacy test. It seems now that the bill will be sidetracked after Christmas and lost.

A majority of the Senate favors it, but the leaders do not care to embarrass President Wilson by forcing him to use his veto power on it.

## Peace Agents Work In Russian Court

### CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—A Petrograd dispatch to the News says:

"Well informed persons are alarmed at the German influence in court and the high governmental spheres. Women of standing and German agents in this city are busy pointing out that there is really no reason why Russia

and Germany should be at war. They say that their governments have been friendly for many centuries and that from a humanitarian point of view the terrible sacrifice of life must be stopped by an early peace.

"This propaganda seems to have had a certain success among the court women."

## Constable's Slayer Gives Himself Up

CHARLESTON, Dec. 23.—In a state of great calm of ability and was entering Ar. Jarrell, alleged slayer of a constable and a 9-year-old boy at Oakley, surrendered late yesterday to the authorities of Boone county and was placed in jail at Madison. Constable Silas F. Nance was killed instantly in a revolver duel with Jarrell, whom he attempted to arrest.

Bullets from Jarrell's revolver are said to have struck Henry Ratcliffe, aged 9, Mrs. Josephine Wines and Belle Adams. Ratcliffe died late yesterday. The women are wounded seriously. It is reported, Jarrell, sentenced to serve six months for "pistol toting," was paroled recently by Governor H. D. Hatfield.

## Young Lawyer Well Known Here is Dead

Mr. C. H. Smoot is in receipt of a message announcing the death of his nephew, J. Roy Hammond, which occurred yesterday at a hospital in Cumberland, following an operation.

Mr. Hammond is known to a number of young people of this city, who will regret sincerely his death.

The deceased was about 24 years of age and had recently completed his law course at the University of Virginia, and had settled in his home town, Oakland, Md., for the practice of his profession. He was a young man of a Hammrud is a sister of Mr. Smoot.

Upon a promising career as a lawyer. He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Hammond, of Oakland. Mrs. Hammond is a sister of Mrs. Smoot.

The funeral arrangements have not been completed. Mr. and Mrs. Smoot will probably attend the funeral.

## Portugal Province Invaded by Germans

By Associated Press.

LISBON, via Paris, Dec. 23.—The Germans have again invaded Angola, Portuguese West Africa. The fact was announced in the Chamber of Deputies by Minister of Colonies, who said that the Germans had made a fresh attack on military post at Naullia, in Angola. The commander of the post, the minister stated, had only a small force of men and retreated in order to obtain reinforcements.

## Frisco's Fruits to N. Y. By the Panama Canal

By Associated Press.]

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal. Dec. 23.—The first cargo of fruit combustibles ever carried from San Francisco to New York under refrigeration through the Panama Canal left San Francisco early today and on the American Hawaiian liner Ohlson. This shipment which includes thousands of boxes of apples and nearly a thousand crates of celery is part of an experimental nature and the outcome is considered by fruit and vegetable producers to be of vital importance.

## The Senate Confirms Wheeling's New P. M.

By Associated Press.]

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The senate today confirmed appointment of W. W. Irwin, of Wheeling, to be postmaster at Wheeling, W. Va.

## Col. Goethals Arrives For Talk With Wilson

By Associated Press.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Col. George W. Goethals, governor of the canal zone reached New York today aboard the steamer Panama, on his way to Washington, where it is said, he will discuss with President Wilson his recent request for warships to enforce the neutrality of U. S., if necessary in the canal zone and guard the entrance to the canal.

## Skeleton of a Cow Saves Man From Pen

By Associated Press.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 23.—The finding of a skeleton of a cow in a woods in Howard county saved Wm. Kennedy, aged 34, from entering the penitentiary. Kennedy had been

## Christmas Will Soon Be Here.

Christmas will soon be here. Why not buy an useful present? You will be able to find them in our line of Gents Wearing Apparel. Pay us a visit before buying.

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Can you look forward to better things? If not, you're not building right. You'll not enjoy a real live man's prospect.

Provide for your later years—prepare for emergencies. A bank account is the rock upon which every successful career has been built.

Let us explain what an account here means in building success ideas in you, and in strengthening your credit, confidence and respect among your friends.

## First National Bank OF FAIRMONT

## LITTLE BOBBIE'S PA

By William F. Kirk

Sum of us club ladies has a new idea, sed Ma to Pa last nite.

How wondrous, sed Pa, jest to think that you deer old gals talk the time onst in a while to git a new idee. It is truly refreshing, sed Pa, it seems like a leaf out of a story book. Well, sed Pa, spill the idee, spill it.

I wish you vudent use that sporting page slang in front of little Bobbie so much, sed Ma. Well, I will tell you what the idee is, & all of us gurls expect our husbands to help us carry it out. We have made up our minds that we are all going anywhere on the city streets at nite without a escort if our husbands happen to be at thare lodges or clubs.

Well, well, sed Pa, is that the idee? That is the idee, sed Ma, & I am sure it is a sensibel idee. Think of the thousands of wimmen that stay in the house nites, sed Ma, wen thare husbands is too busy to talk them anyware. They stay in thare hoams becaus of the old, foolish noshun that a respectabel woman vudent go out alone at nite. What do you think of the idee?

Well, sed Pa, I dont know. Thare are so many of the old noshuns & old fashuns getting the K. O. punch these days that I am never a bit surprised wen I hear of sum new fad. But I must say, sed Pa, that this idee is a littel moar sane than sum of the latest fads. I cant seem to think of any good reason why a good woman cant go on an errand or go calling on a nabor without a escort. If she wants to talk the chance. I shall make no objections to the new skeem, sed Pa, & shall talk to my gentlemen friends

about it, too. I toald all the ladies at the club how good & nobel you are in things like that, sed Ma. You are a deer. Now I can talk little Bobbie with me if I want to go visit a nabor, or if it is after his bed time I can lenev him with the maid & go for a stroll. I thank you, my deer husband, for the grand stand wich you have took on this grate question. I must go & tell the other gurls about it, sed Ma.

Yes, sed Pa, tell them I am for it, & if you want to, you can tell them the reason I am for it. You see, wife, sed Pa, it has been in the past that wen I went to lodge I always felt a littel gilty about hanging around after lodge with the boys becaus I knew that you would be at hoam alone, waiting for me. The way you gals are going to swing it now, sed Pa, we men neednt worry about what time we git hoam after the lodge. We shall be happy in the knowledge that our wives are out roaming around & drinking in the beauties of the nite & wile they are drinking in the beauties of the nite we can stick around that much longer drinking in a littel moar of the saim. It is a grand idee, a grate idee, sed Pa.

Then Ma looked at Pa kind of funny & began to think.

Now that I think it oaver, deer, sed Ma, I am not so sure I want to go into this thing. Of course if you intend to stay out all nite after lodge, I shall saty at hoam the lodge nites, & the other nites you always escort me anyhow. We may give it up, tho all of us gurls thought it was about as sensibel as any new move we have made.

So it is, sed Pa, just about as sensibel.

accused and convicted of stealing the cow and was sentenced to one year and was about to go to the penitentiary when a delegation of friends arrived bearing a statement from the owner of the cow that the animal's skeleton had been found on his farm. Gov. Hays at once issued a pardon for Kennedy.

## Lewis, Editor and Author, Dies in N. Y.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Alfred Henry Lewis, newspaper man and writer of books, died at the home of his brother here of an intestinal disorder today. He had been ill only a few days.

## Comfy House Slippers



THE IDEAL GIFT TO EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY.

Evening Slippers — all colors — Satin — French Kid and Patent Kid \$3, \$4, \$4.50.	Men's Leather Slippers, most complete assortment at \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50. Get Dad a pair.	Wooley all colors — Silk, Cotton, 25c to \$2.00.
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